

**Village of Brownville Town Board Meeting,
October 11, 2021**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Marty Hayes pointed out the posting of the Open Meetings Act.

Board members present: Bailey Bindle, Terry Vice, Natisha Helmick and Josh Russell. Also present, Deborah Solie, clerk.

Motion by Helmick, seconded by Russell, to approve the agenda as handed out. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Motion by Helmick, seconded by Bindle, to approve the September 13 Budget Hearing and September 13 regular meeting. All yes votes. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. Russell moved the financial report be accepted as handed out. Helmick seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

The claims were reviewed. Helmick moved the claims be paid as presented. Bindle seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Projects, Buildings and Equipment:

Water/Sewer Report: Russell reported an inspection had been completed of the wastewater lagoons. No significant findings were indicated, but there was some muskrat activity and brush that needed to be addressed. Russell indicated he would review the issues.

The clerk asked for clarification of the rules, regulations and procedures for water and sewer, and specifically fees for water hook ups. The Board indicated this had been decided in a prior meeting.

Street Report: Hayes reported Constructors, Inc. will be in Brownville to fix ripples in the asphalt in October or November – no set date. Vice and Hayes met with Village engineers, JEO, to view ditches, drainage areas, curbs and streets to develop a plan for upkeep and repair. As follow up from this meeting, they are working with the County to clear ditches and culverts.

Riverside Park Report: Vice reported the Village has received information to begin soliciting bids for debris removal and is moving forward. The Village continues to discuss options with JEO regarding the berm location, but the current priority is debris removal.

Town Hall Repairs: Hayes reported there is a crack in the concrete at the back of the Hall that needs repair. The Board decided to solicit feedback and bids from area contractors.

Old Business:

The Board discussed Helmick and Bindle's recommendation for new Christmas lights. Vice made a motion to purchase the recommended lights within the established budget. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

New Business:

A building permit application for a new garage at 705 Allen Street was reviewed by the Board. Vice moved to approve the application as presented. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Alley access behind 327 Main Street, north of Whiskey Run Creek Winery was discussed. The Board tabled the discussion until a survey of the alley can be completed.

Steve Woerth presented on the Creative District opportunity provided through the State of Nebraska. Non-profits and businesses in the Village are partnering to apply to become a Creative District with the Brownville Historical Society serving as the lead organization. Woerth asked if the Village Board would be willing to serve as a partner. Helmick indicated she would like to represent the Board and moved to have the Village serve as a partner for the Creative District. Bindle seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried. Helmick commented she felt Brownville would be an excellent candidate.

Helmick presented on the Village's Halloween plans intended to provide a trick-or-treat opportunity for area children. The Merchants of Brownville indicated business would be handing out candy. The date was confirmed for Saturday, October 30 at 5 p.m. on Main Street.

Woerth brought forward a concern of liability for the Village due to a stone structure built in the right of way at 4th and Main Street. The structure was built to divert water from causing property damage, and the property owner assumed liability – providing evidence of liability insurance. Several residents shared their support for the cultural and artistic expression of the structure. The topic was tabled until the Village Board could determine liability for the town.

Helmick moved to retain membership in the Nebraska Rural Water Association. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Helmick moved to retain membership in the Southeast Nebraska Development District. Bindle seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

The Board asked the Clerk to determine if there were better interest rates for maturing certificates of deposit held by the Village. If there were no better interest rates, the CDs would be rolled over at their current rate.

The Board discussed a proposal from LARM to raise insurance coverage of the Village Hall to full replacement value. Helmick moved to increase insurance coverage to full replacement cost.

Russell seconded. Hayes abstained. Vice abstained. Bindle voted yes. Russell voted yes. Helmick voted yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

The floor was opened for public comment from the community. Comments were made regarding transferring Keno funds from savings to certificates of deposit, hourly wages paid by the Village, and challenges with flea market and vendors.

Adjournment:

Vice moved that the meeting be adjourned. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried. Adjournment at 7:42 p.m.

Deborah Solie, clerk